

Minutes

Board of Engineers

Advisory Members

Wednesday July 12th, 2006

Chief Robert Warren calls meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. present were Chief R. Warren, 1st. Asst. Ch. J. Hartman and members of the Planning and Advisory Committee. Also present were about 10 visitors, mostly firemen.

Chief warren reviewed District priorities and relates on proper order of same.

Chief Warren reviewed budget items and will try to become into a good financial state. Future finances were discussed. Changes in venders for lower charges were discussed.

Chief Warren reported on the following items:

Equipment is in good condition.

Rescue units are in need of improvement.

Town of Coventry has cancelled the Ambulance service, the District will lose the \$30,000. compensation.

Discussed selling the older Rescue units and purchasing newer models.

District is behind on rescue run collections compared to other Districts. Collected \$50,000 for the 7-month period.

Monetary collections were placed in the Rescue Recovery Fund.

Conrad Burns discussed fund monies, and reported that the district is behind by \$42,000 compared with the previous year. Chief Warren to explore contracts with Income Collection Agency. A 4% charge is involved.

Chief Warren requested input from Members. The Senior Tax Freeze was discussed.

D. Terraciano suggested that seniors that are exempt should help to pay some of the tax burden.

J. Leroux informed the Board of income limits of \$27,500 on exempt seniors.

G. Cote and K. Matola expressed their views on the subject.

D. Terraciano retracted his suggestion on the senior payment.

RETURN TO DISTRICT FINANCIAL STATUS:

C. Warren reported on the taxpayers stating that the District be limited to No over spending budget at the last District Annual Meeting.

C. Burns discussed the tax levy and income from collections and compared them to previous year.

J. Lukowicz reported that \$64,000 more in tax collections to date then last year.

G. Cote questioned the increase on tax bills this year.

Chief Warren relates on high expenses on order. Cuts by venders, arbitration, truck repairs, rescue units are in need of repair.

The Ch.'s vehicle needs inspection and repair. Surplus equipment may be sold. District house rental collection is in arrears. Members suggested eviction of the tenant for non-payment of rent. G. Cote related on such a procedure.

Other members suggested vacate, sell or tear down the property.

Ch. Warren discussed the district owned land off Blackrock Rd. Maybe it could be sold, but it is wetlands, so it would be more difficult to sell.

Treasurer H. Murphy applied for an extension of the \$50,000 loan with the bank.

J. Lukowicz reported on sending 127 legal notices for overdue taxes.

Ch. Warren reported on the following:

Checking on purchasing gas and diesel at a lower price from the Town of Coventry.

Checking on the closing of the Mapledale Ave. storage building with heat and water savings. Need of the building was questioned.

Various cleanups are in progress.

Chief reported that the Coventry Housing Authority gives a donation in lieu of taxes.

Discussed the tax issue with Parente Oil.

Discussed the sale of surplus fire trucks.

C. Burns explained the IRS charges after an audit.

It will hurt the current budget. The legal budget is overspent.

R. Carlow requested a meeting with the Board of Engineers rather than arbitration. C. Burns suggested creating a group to assist the Chief to negotiate a labor contract.

D. Terraciano requested to assist the Chief with the labor negotiations. He has some experience in that field.

Chief Warren to take the advice and will decide what to do.

Fire Procedures and Sop's:

Ch. Warren related on procedures and the SOP's, that are in print and will be reviewed.

Ch. Warren related on the position of 2nd Dep. Chief. It will be deferred to the December District Meeting.

C. Burns agreed with the decision.

J. Leroux reported on sending letters to audit firms seeding quotes. No feedback to date.

G. Cote questioned the resolution of a five member board to govern the CFD that was passed at the last annual district meeting.

D. Gorman discussed the above resolution and the actions taken about a petition calling for a special district meeting concerning same.

C. Burns discussed the resolution and the 2/3 majority vote needed to

amend the charter. C. Burns admits an error on its passage.

Ch. Warren states that no money is available to spend on attorney fees.

NEW INSPECTIONS PROCEDURES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

Lt. Perra revised inspection dates to accommodate the timetable for the inspections. All monies collected for inspections must be used for fire prevention work. That is stated in the State Fire Code Law.

Ch. Warren plans to request the use of fire prevention equipment from other districts if needed.

Discussion of Insurance Policies:

H. Murphy, Treasurer, explained how she does the insurance comparison-shopping.

Ch. Warren was very concerned about amounts paid for injured personnel. Past older claims are still in existence.

Ch. Warren discussed the medical billing by different companies. Rates start at 4% and higher. The best service and fee will be sought.

Ch. Warren plans to apply for any future grants that will be available for the district. He is hoping for success.

The Treasurer informed the body of an increase in Blue Cross payment starting on July 1, 2006. This was not known at budget time.

Ch. Warren will bring up during the contract negotiations with firemen.

D. Terraciano states that insurance costs are skyrocketing upward in industry.

Lt. Cote spoke of higher health insurance costs.

Ch. Warren informed members that retired Chief Mruk is to return all district equipment.

Re-numeration for Chief of Dept.:

Postponed to another meeting at a later date.

Ch. Warren calls for another meeting on Aug. 9, 2006.

G. Cote motions to adjourn this meeting, seconded by C. Golomb and the motion carries unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Golomb, Clerk